

PRESS RELEASE

October 15, 2009

RE: H1N1 Vaccine Availability

The Riley County-Manhattan Health Department has received a few hundred doses of injectable H1N1 vaccine and has a good supply of FluMist, which is a nasal spray live vaccine for the H1N1 flu virus. Anyone eligible for FluMist is encouraged to take that over the injectable vaccine because the injectable is in short supply and some people can only have that type of vaccine. Also, future vaccine shipments are dependent upon use of all available vaccine.

FluMist vaccine will be offered to two healthy population groups (in no particular order). If you have questions regarding what constitutes “healthy”, please consult your physician:

- 1) Children between the ages of 2 and 9 years who have no health problems, and
- 2) Health care workers who are 49 years of age or younger, who are healthy and not pregnant, and who are likely to be in close contact with flu infected persons.

H1N1 flu shots will be offered, according to the high risk designation of the National Center for Disease Control (CDC), to the following population groups (in no particular order):

- 1) Pregnant women
- 2) Children between the ages of 6 months and 4 years
- 3) Children between the ages of 5 and 18 years who have chronic health conditions
- 4) Health care workers who work directly with persons who are likely to be infected

Vaccine will be offered at the Riley County-Manhattan Health Department beginning on **Friday, October 16th** from 7:00 – 8:30 AM and Monday, October 19th from 4:00 – 5:30 PM, or until we run out. We will be receiving ongoing shipments of vaccine and sometimes will deplete the supply and have to wait for another shipment. As more vaccine becomes available in the coming weeks, the guidelines for who is eligible to receive it will broaden. You can monitor supply and availability information at www.rileycountyks.gov under **H1N1 Local Info** or by calling 776-4779, extension 297.

H1N1 vaccine is free. Fees for administration of the vaccine will be billed to insurance. Only insurance will be billed, not individuals. Persons without insurance coverage for the vaccine will not be charged at the health department.

Persons who qualify should complete the Vaccine Consent Form in advance if possible. The consent form is available at doctor's offices, the health department, the library, and online at www.rileycountyks.gov under **H1N1 Local Info**.

H1N1 has not been any more serious than seasonal influenza so far but it attacks a younger age group than seasonal flu does and because virtually the entire population lacks immunity, it can infect far more

people at once than seasonal flu usually does. For these reasons, we recommend that people get vaccinated as it becomes available for their population or age group.

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